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## **Greenwood Redevelopment Commission approves plans, funding for \$7 million craft distillery and restaurant**

*RDC to provide \$164,000 to Dragon Rock Distillery for access road, sidewalks*

**GREENWOOD, Ind.** – Greenwood's east side has been a hotbed for recent growth and development. Continuing this trend, the Greenwood Redevelopment Commission (RDC) on Tuesday approved up to \$170,000 for infrastructure improvements for a major new development project in the area.

Dragon Rock Distillery and owner Dave Hunter are planning a 12-acre operation to be built just off Greenwood's Main Street, east of Interstate 65. The \$7 million project includes plans for a 37,000 sq. ft. building housing a craft distillery, brewery, storage warehouse and small-plates restaurant. Outdoor seating is planned as well.



Greenwood Mayor Mark W. Myers praised the project and discussed the area's long history with local wineries and craft breweries.

"Greenwood is home to Oaken Barrel Brewing Company, one of the first craft breweries in Central Indiana," said Myers. "More recent additions include Mashcraft Brewing and Planetary Brewing, and just down the road we have Mallow Run Winery and Taxman Brewing Company. The industry has really taken off on the south side, and others are noticing Greenwood's appetite for locally produced beer, wine and spirits. Dragon Rock is going to be a great addition to this area."

Hunter says he chose the location for its proximity to the interstate and year-round exposure to customers.

"We're much more than a distillery, brewery and restaurant operation," said Hunter. "This is going to be a destination, drawing visitors from around the region. The craft distillery industry is still very much in its infancy, and we anticipate growth similar to craft breweries. It's an ideal time to launch Dragon Rock Distillery."

Hunter says his plans include using locally grown products, possibly designating small portions of the land to grow corn, rye, wheat and barley. He also wants the public to learn about and be able to view how the distilling process works, offering public tours of Dragon Rock and its operations.

RDC President Brent Tilson discussed Greenwood's favorable position for attracting new developments like Dragon Rock.

"Businesses are beginning to realize the significant opportunities Greenwood presents in terms of available workforce, property and disposable resident income," said Tilson. "Our goal at the RDC is to shepherd these projects, working with business owners, developers and site selectors to ensure successful endeavors, both for the business and the community."

Hunter plans to hire more than 50 employees once operations are in full swing. Construction is expected to begin later this year or the first quarter of 2017.

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